

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00387 141116Z

12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 PA-02

PRS-01 USIA-15 SCCT-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /084 W

----- 091019

R 131306Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8104

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY ROME

FAA RHEIN MAIN

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

UNCLAS BEIRUT 387

ROME FOR RCAA DWOR

E.O. 11652: NWXA

TAGS: EAIR

SUBJECT: MEA STATEMENT ON PLANE CRASH

1. FRENCH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER "L'ORIENT" TODAY CARRIES
STATEMENT OF MIDDLE EAST AIRLINES CONCERNING THE RECENT
CRASH OF ITS PLANE IN THE SAUDI-KUWAITI NEUTRAL ZONE.
TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE THE JOURNAL "GULF WEEKLY "MIRROR" APPEARING IN
BAHREIN PUBLISHED IN ONE OF ITS EDITIONS CERTAIN
DETAILS OF THE ACCIDENT WHICH BEFELL AN AIRPLANE OF
THIS COMPANY OVER THE SAUDI-KUWAIT NEUTRAL ZONE. ACCORD-
ING TO THE VERSION OF THE JOURNAL IN QUESTION, THE AIR-
PLANE CRASHED AFTER THE CAPTAIN HAD INFORMED THE CONTROL
TOWER OF THE KUWAITI AIRPORT THAT IT WAS HAVING TECHNICAL
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 00387 141116Z

CAL DIFFICULTIES. REUTERS, CITED KUWAITI SOURCES, HAS

DISSEMINATED SIMILAR INFORMATION.

3. MEA DISPATCHED TO KUWAIT A SPECIAL DELEGATION TO CONTACT THE OFFICE OF CIVIL AVIATION SO AS TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE TRUTH OF THIS STORY. THE OFFICE OFFERED ITS FULL COOPERATION GIVING THE DELEGATION A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REPORT CONCERNING THE RADIO CONTACT BETWEEN THE AIRPLANE AND THE KUWAITI CONTROL TOWER AS WELL AS A COPY OF THE TAPE ON WHICH WAS RECORDED THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE CONTROL TOWER AND THE CAPTAIN OF THE CRASHED AIRPLANE.

4. BELOW ARE THE CONTENTS OF THE TAPE WHICH RECORDED THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE KUWAITI CONTROL TOWER AND THE CAPTAIN.

QTE 1:30 GMT: THE CAPTAIN: "ALTITUDE 37,000 FEET. I WILL BE OVER 'VICTOR' AT 1:33."

4:46 GMT: ALL TRACE OF THE AIRPLANE DISAPPEARS FROM THE RADAR SCREEN.

1:47 GMT: THE CALLS OF THE RADAR OFFICER TO THE COMMANDER OF FLIGHT 438 REMAIN UNANSWERED. UNQTE

5. IT APPEARS THAT THE DIALOGUE DOES NOT SUPPORT THE THEORY OF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES.

6. IN ADDITION CERTAIN NEWSPAPERS HAVE PUBLISHED HYPOTHESES ON THE CAUSES OF THE ACCIDENT WITHOUT REGARD TO RESULTS OF THE INQUIRY AND INVENTED NON-EXISTENT FACTS.

7. MEA HOPES THAT THE TECHNICAL INQUIRY WILL END SOON SO THAT THE TRUTH IN ITS ENTIRETY CAN BE ESTABLISHED. UNQUOTE. WARING

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT00387
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760013-0704
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760164/aaaacelq.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: mendozsm
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by castelsl>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by mendozsm>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEA STATEMENT ON PLANE CRASH
TAGS: EAIR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006